

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 12, and 18. Please amend the following claims.

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1. (Currently Amended) A mounting assembly for a seatbelt tension sensor comprising:

a rigid member having one end operably coupled to a seatbelt portion;

a sensor mounted on said rigid member for measuring strain exerted on said rigid member by an input force applied to the seatbelt portion; and

a bracket having a first mounting portion for attachment to said rigid member and a second mounting portion for attachment to a vehicle structure to define a guide for isolating said sensor from non-axial input forces applied to the seatbelt portion wherein said first mounting portion is parallel to said rigid member and said second mounting portion is non-parallel to said rigid member.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) An assembly according to claim [2] 1 wherein said second mounting portion is perpendicular to said rigid member.

4. (Currently Amended) An assembly according to claim [2] 1 wherein said second mounting portion includes a pair of bosses mounted on opposing sides of said bracket, each of said bosses including an aperture for supporting a pivot shaft.

5. (Original) An assembly according to claim 4 wherein said rigid member defines an axial input load force axis and said pivot shaft defines a pivot axis that is transverse to said axial input load force axis.

6. (Original) An assembly according to claim 4 including an electrical connector mounted to said rigid member adjacent to said sensor for receiving strain measurements from said sensor and transmitting said measurements to a central processor to determine the magnitude of said input force.

7. (Original) An assembly according to claim 6 wherein said rigid member is a plate having a first end for attachment to said first mounting portion and a second end operably coupled to the seatbelt portion, said first and second ends being interconnected by a neck portion having a width that is less than the width of said first and second ends and wherein said sensor is mounted on said neck portion.

8. (Original) An assembly according to claim 7 wherein said first end defines a first opening and said first mounting portion defines a second opening, wherein said first end is overlaid on said first mounting portion to align said first and second openings.

9. (Original) An assembly according to claim 8 wherein said electrical connector is mounted to said rigid member adjacent to said second end between said first opening and said neck portion.

10. (Currently Amended) An assembly according to claim [2] 1 wherein said vehicle structure is a B-pillar.

11. (Currently Amended) A bracket for a seatbelt force sensor assembly comprising:  
a generally flat body portion for supporting a seatbelt [for] force sensor assembly, said body portion being defined by a first end, a second end, a first side interconnecting said first and second ends to define a first edge, and a second side interconnecting said first and second ends to define a second edge opposite from said first edge; and

a plurality of boss portions including at least a first boss portion extending outwardly along a portion of said first edge and a second boss portion extending outwardly along a portion of said second edge wherein said body portion and said boss portions define a guide and wherein said first end includes a mounting portion for attachment to the seatbelt force sensor assembly and said first and second boss portions are positioned adjacent to said second end for attachment to a vehicle structure and to define a guide for isolating the sensor assembly from non-axial input forces.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A bracket according to claim [12] 11 wherein said first and second [bosses] boss portions include circular openings aligned with one another for supporting a pivot shaft.

14. (Original) A bracket according to claim 13 wherein said body portion pivots about a pivot axis defined by said pivot shaft and relative to said vehicle structure.

15. (Original) A bracket according to claim 14 wherein said vehicle structure is a B-pillar.

16. (Original) A bracket according to claim 14 wherein said vehicle structure is a side anchor mount.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of measuring a seatbelt force comprising the steps of:

mounting a seatbelt force sensor to a rigid plate member;

mounting one end of the rigid plate member to a seatbelt portion;

mounting an opposite end of the rigid plate member to a vehicle structure;

pivotally mounting a guide member at one end between the rigid plate member and the vehicle structure;

applying an input force to the seatbelt portion;

[guiding the seatbelt portion with a guide member to isolate] isolating the seatbelt force sensor from input forces applied at an angle by guiding the seatbelt portion with the guide member; and

generating an output signal from the seatbelt force sensor representative of the force applied to the seatbelt portion.

18. (Cancelled)

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19. (New) An assembly according to claim 1 wherein said second mounting portion defines a pivot axis extending from a first side edge to a second side edge of said bracket.

20. (New) An assembly according to claim 1 wherein said wherein said first mounting portion comprises a fixed attachment interface between said bracket and said rigid member.

21. (New) A bracket according to claim 11 wherein said first and second boss portions define a pivot attachment.

22. (New) A method according to claim 17 including the step of measuring strain exerted on the rigid plate member by the input force with the seatbelt force sensor.

23. (New) A method according to claim 17 including the step of pivoting the guide member about an axis defined by a pivot shaft extending between a pair of bosses.

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